(b) whether Chief Labour Commissioner had referred this issue wrongly to RLC (Guwahati) instead of RLC (Calcutta);

(c) whether the same was rectified in November, 1996;

(d) if so, the reasons for denying this information in above referred reply; and

(e) the reasons for the delay in conducting the verification so far and likely date to complete the process?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no delay in conductintg the verification. Unions & Management gave their consent on this issue to RLC(C) Calcutta only on 20.1.97. Indian Oil employees union requested RLC(C) Calcutta to hold election after 20th March, 1997, Indian Oil Shramik Union requested RLC(C) Calcutta to hold election before March, 1997. The management requested 45 days time for preparation with regard to conduct of election. The verification process will be completed as early as possible.

Government's Assurance to ILO re Elimination of Child Labour in Hazardous Jobs

2355. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately assured ILO to eliminate child labour in hazardous jobs;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the assurance?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) While the policy of the Government is to eliminate child labour in all its form, the elimination of child labour from hazardous occupations has been taken up in the first instance. 76 child labour projects have been set up for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. A major activity undertaken under the child labour project is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc. Besides opening of child labour projects, funds have been sanctioned for carrying out survey on child labour in 123 districts and for awareness generation in 133 districts.

Increase in the Number of Labour Courts

2356. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to increase the number of labour courts in the country;

(b) whether Government have also been requested to assign the work of labour courts to retired judges of High Courts;

(c) whether Government propose to take action on these requests; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Appointment of Presiding Officers of Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts is made in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 7(A), 7(b) and 7(c) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Eligible judges can be appointed as Presiding Officers upto their attaining the age of 65 years irrespective of whether one is serving or retired Judge. Suitable Judicial Officers are appointed as